

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-11 (cancelled).

12. (currently amended) A method for joining two workpieces made ~~from~~ from plastic, comprising providing a laser source for emitting a laser beam, providing an upper workpiece, comprising a material transparent to the laser beam, ~~and~~ providing a lower workpiece, comprising a material absorbent to the laser beam, wherein mutually bordering contact surfaces for the two workpieces are melted under the effect of the laser beam and joined to one another under pressure and subsequent cooling, providing a machining head having a ~~translucent~~ rotatably mounted transparent pressure element and pressing the ~~translucent~~ transparent pressure element onto the upper workpiece showing a three-dimensional shaped touch surface for the transparent pressure element facing the machining head wherein a mechanical compression of the workpieces by the transparent pressure element and a guiding of the laser beam are accomplished simultaneously with a three-dimensional motion of the machining head and a dosage of the compression being exerted to the upper workpiece by the machining head.

13. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the mechanical compression of the workpieces occurs either punctually exactly at a point of infringement where the laser beam hits the contact surfaces or in a region around the

point.

14. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the machining head is moved along a line or a contour to be welded on the three-dimensional shaped touch surface of the upper workpiece while touching the upper workpiece.

15. (canceled).

16. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein a focal plane of the machining head is determined by an IR-transparent pressure element and an integrated lens system and is set by the integrated lens system.

17. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 13 or 14, wherein the workpieces are fixed in a first step at one or more defined points with the aid of the machining head and subsequently a line or a contour to be welded is traveled along during a second step.